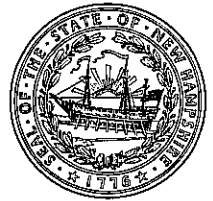




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 3, 2009

The Honorable Mary R. Cooney, Chairman
Municipal and County Government
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 290, authorizing fluvial erosion hazard zoning

Dear Chairman Cooney:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 290, which would allow municipalities to enact ordinances and regulations affecting fluvial erosion hazards. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill, which implements a recommendation of the Final Report of the Comprehensive Flood Management Study Commission (New Hampshire House Bill 648, Chapter 179.1, Laws of 2007).

New Hampshire has experienced very significant impacts from riverine, or fluvial, flooding three times in the last three years. During these types of flood events, flood damage is caused by two processes: flood inundation and fluvial erosion. At the local level, flood inundation is typically addressed through local ordinances adopted under the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. However, no clear authority exists for municipalities to adopt local ordinances to regulate areas at risk from fluvial erosion. HB 290 provides this authority.

Please feel free to call me at 271-2958, or Steve Couture at 271-8801, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very Truly Yours,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representative Andersen
Representative Kappler
Rivers Management Advisory Committee (via email)
Local River Management Advisory Committees (via email)